



DRAFT MINUTES

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 16, 2020 | 1:00 p.m. | 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Allen M. Christensen, Chair
Rep. Brad M. Daw, Chair
Sen. David G. Buxton
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Stewart E. Barlow
Rep. Jennifer Dailey-Provost
Rep. Steve Eliason
Rep. Sandra Hollins
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Karianne Lisonbee
Rep. Kelly B. Miles

Rep. Paul Ray
Rep. Rex P. Shipp
Rep. Robert M. Spendlove
Rep. Norman K. Thurston
Rep. Raymond P. Ward

Staff Present:

Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Karin M. Rueff, Policy Analyst
Daniel M. Cheung, Associate General Counsel
Ericka A. Evans, Associate General Counsel
Christopher Williams, Associate General Counsel
Amy Hawkes, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Daw called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m.

1 . Committee Business

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2020, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 7.

Yeas-10

Sen. D. Buxton
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. B. Daw
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. B. King
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. R. Spendlove
Rep. N. Thurston
Sen. E. Vickers

Nays-0

Absent-7

Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. S. Eliason
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. K. Miles
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. R. Ward

2 . Telehealth: The Future

[2.4 PRESENTATION: Telehealth and Office Visit Trends: A Snapshot from Utahs All Payer Claims Database \(Source: Utah Department of Health\)](#)

Carl Letamendi, Director, Office of Healthcare Statistics, Utah Department of Health, gave a brief introduction on telehealth insurance claims in Utah during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sterling Petersen, Lead Analyst, Office of Healthcare Statistics, Utah Department of Health, presented additional information regarding health insurance claims for telehealth and in-person office visits before and during the pandemic. He also answered committee questions.

[2.5 PRESENTATION: The Future of Telehealth in Utah \(Source: UETN\)](#)



Matt McCullough, Associate Director, Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN), gave background information on the UETN and its role with telehealth and education. He discussed how telehealth has changed during the pandemic and reviewed potential barriers to telehealth use. He also answered questions from the committee.

Dr. Sarah Woolsey, family physician and Medical Director, Comagine Health, and Chair, Utah Telehealth Advisory Council, helped answer committee questions.

David Gessel, Executive Vice President, Utah Hospital Association, discussed telehealth issues, including access, fraud, payment, and quality.

[2.6 PRESENTATION: University of Utah Health - Digital Health \(Source: University of Utah Health\)](#)

Dr. Terry Box, Medical Director, Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), University of Utah Health, presented information on Project ECHO and its relationship to telehealth. He also answered committee questions.

Rep. Eliason reminded the committee of a University of Utah Program, CALL-UP, another telehealth service.

Nate Gladwell, Senior Director, Clinical Operations, University of Utah, presented a snapshot of telehealth before and during the Covid-19 pandemic and potential use of telehealth after the pandemic. He also described how the Legislature can help improve telehealth care.

[2.7 PRESENTATION: Telemedicine \(Source: Utah Medical Association\)](#)

Michelle McOmber, CEO, Utah Medical Association, discussed the pros and cons of telemedicine, how telemedicine has helped during COVID-19, and barriers to realizing telemedicine's full potential. She also identified steps the Legislature could take with respect to telemedicine and answered committee questions.

Dr. Patrice Hirning, American Medical Association Delegate, UMA Board, and internist in Salt Lake City, shared her experience with telehealth and answered committee questions.

Stephen Foxley, Director of Government Affairs, Regence BlueCross BlueShield, reviewed Regence's policy on telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic and its position on telehealth going forward after the pandemic.

3 . Sunset Review: Telehealth Mental Health Pilot Program

[3.3 PRESENTATION: Telehealth Mental Health Pilot Program \(Source: Utah Department of Human Services\)](#)

Doug Thomas, Director, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Utah Department of Human Services, provided an overview of the Telehealth Mental Health Pilot Program.

Eric Tadehara, Assistant Director, Children, Youth and Family Services, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Utah Department of Human Services, provided further information on accomplishments and lessons learned during the pilot program. He also answered committee questions.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to open a bill file to remove the Telehealth Mental Health Pilot Program from the Legislative Oversight and Sunset Act and expand the program as appropriate. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 2.

Yeas-15

Rep. S. Barlow
Sen. D. Buxton
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. B. Daw
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. K. Miles
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. R. Spendlove
Rep. N. Thurston
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Ward

Nays-0Absent-2

Rep. S. Eliason
Rep. B. King

4 . Sunset Review: Child Protection Unit Pilot Program

Sen. Christensen gave background information on the Child Protection Unit Pilot Program.

Diane Moore, Director, Division of Child and Family Services, Utah Department of Human Services, recommended allowing the Child Protection Unit Pilot Program (Utah Code Section 62A-4a-202.9), and it's appropriation, to sunset, with the exception of Subsection 62A-4a-202.9(8), which allows for the sharing of case-specific information with multi-disciplinary team members.

MOTION: Rep. Miles moved that the committee let the pilot program lapse.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Rep. Ward moved to open a committee bill file to reauthorize Utah Code Subsection 62A-4a-202.9(8) and allow the remainder of the Child Protection Unit Pilot Program in Section 62A-4a-202.9 to lapse. The substitute motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 2.

Yeas-15

Rep. S. Barlow
Sen. D. Buxton
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. B. Daw
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. K. Miles
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. R. Spendlove
Rep. N. Thurston
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Ward

Nays-0Absent-2

Rep. S. Eliason
Rep. B. King

5 . Sunset Review: Utah Commission on Aging**5.5 PRESENTATION: Collective Impact of Strategic Partnerships (Source: UCOA)**

Rob Ence, Executive Director, Utah Commission on Aging, reviewed the work of the commission, recommended the commission be removed from the Legislative Oversight and Sunset Act or renewed for at least 10 years, and noted that there are potential changes to the commission's enabling statute, including changes to commission membership, that could be discussed in the future.



Chair Daw noted that Sen. Iwamoto has opened a bill file to address Mr. Ence's recommendations.

Mark Supiano, Executive Director, Center on Aging, University of Utah, spoke in support of reauthorizing the Utah Commission on Aging and removing it from the Legislative Oversight and Sunset Act.

Ronnie Daniel, Executive Director of the Utah Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, spoke in support of the commission recommendations made by Rob Ence.

MOTION: Rep. Ward moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 3.

Yeas-14

Rep. S. Barlow
Sen. D. Buxton
Sen. A. Christensen
Rep. J. Dailey-Provost
Rep. B. Daw
Sen. L. Escamilla
Rep. S. Hollins
Rep. B. King
Rep. P. Ray
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. R. Spendlove
Rep. N. Thurston
Sen. E. Vickers
Rep. R. Ward

Nays-0

Absent-3

Rep. S. Eliason
Rep. K. Lisonbee
Rep. K. Miles

Chair Daw adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.